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DE RUEHTRO #0157 0491044
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4512
INFO RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 0773
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 0908
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 0846
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1415
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0702
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1016
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 5037

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 000157

SIPDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO COMMERCE (NATE MASON) AND USTR (PAUL BURKHEAD)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/17/2019 TAGS: [ECON](#) [EIND](#) [ETRD](#) [PREL](#) [KCOR](#) [LY](#)

- 1.(C) Caterpillar's principal representative for Libya, Mohamed El Fadhel Khalil, called on the Ambassador on February 16. Khalil is Managing Director of Caterpillar's Libya operations.
- 2.(C) Khalil briefed the Ambassador on difficulties CAT has encountered in attempting to sell and service its equipment into Libya. In 2007, the company was unable to sell its equipment into Libya due to a ban on imports of CAT equipment.
- 3.(C) Khalil said a representative of the al-Qadhafi family (he did not say who) approached CAT's Vice President of Marketing for Europe, Africa and the Middle East in 2007 and offered to help CAT sell its equipment into Libya.
- 4.(C) Khalil said the the GOL reinstated the total ban on imports of CAT equipment approximately two weeks ago. He did not offer a reason for the reinstatement.
- 5.(C) Comment: Different permutations of the reasons for CAT's troubles are making the rounds in Tripoli's rumor mills. A version has it that the ban was reinstated because CAT's equipment is too old and unreliable.